IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

K. AOTA, et al.

Application No.:

Divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.

09/820,231, filed March 18, 1997

Filed:

On even date herewith

For:

FRICTION STIR WELDING MEMBER

Art Group in Parent:

3635

Examiner in Parent:

R. Canfield

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

June 23, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 8-62491, filed in Japan on March 19, 1996.

A certified copy of the above-referred-to Japanese Patent Application was submitted on March 18, 1997 in prior U.S. Application Serial No. 08/820,231, filed March 18, 1997.

Kindly charge any additional fees due, or credit overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 503.35255VX6).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

William I. Solomon Reg. No. 28,565

WIS/dlt/led

Tel.: (703) 312-6600 Fax: (703) 312-6666